IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace the copy of FIG. 1 originally filed with the attached replacement copy of FIG. 1. Applicants submit that the attached replacement copy of FIG. 1 contains no new matter. A marked up copy of FIG. 1 showing the proposed change is provided in Appendix I.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following new claims 23 – 27:

23. (New) An electronic thermometer according to claim 1 wherein said removable module includes an isolation chamber that prevents storage of said temperature sensitive probe while a probe cover is installed on said temperature sensitive probe.

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24. (New) An electronic thermometer according to claim 1 wherein said removable module comprises an at least partially transparent housing for viewing said supply of disposable probe covers.

25. (New) The method according to claim 5 further comprising the step of providing means to store said temperature probe within said module for preventing storage of said temperature probe while a probe cover is installed thereon.

26. (New) The thermometer according to claim 22 wherein said removable module comprises an isolation chamber that prevents storage of said temperature probe while a probe cover is installed thereon.

27. (New) The thermometer according to claim 22 wherein said removable module comprises an at least partially transparent housing for viewing said supply of disposable probe covers.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 22 hereby presented in clean form pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 (c) (1) (i). Another version of the amended claims, marked up to show all of the changes relative to the previous version of each respective claim, is provided separate from this amendment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 (c) (1) (ii). (See Appendix II).

1. (Amended) An electronic thermometer comprising:

a removable module having a memory and capable of storing a temperature sensitive probe and a supply of disposable probe covers, wherein said memory stores calibration information; and

a temperature calculating unit removably mating to said removable module.

2. (Amended) An electronic thermometer comprising:

a removable module having a memory and capable of storing a temperature sensitive probe and a supply of disposable probe covers, wherein said memory stores temperature probe identifying information; and

a temperature calculating unit removably mating to said removable module.

5. (Amended) A method of preventing contamination of a removable temperature probe in an electronic thermometer comprising the steps of:

storing probe-identifying information in a memory chip;

connecting said memory chip to said temperature probe;

storing said temperature probe in a removable module;

storing a supply of clean disposable temperature probe covers in said removable module;

removably connecting said removable module to a temperature calculating unit; and

communicating said probe-identifying information from said memory chip to said temperature calculating unit.

6. (Amended) An electronic thermometer comprising:

at least one removable module including a temperature probe and means for storing a supply of clean probe covers;

at least one temperature calculating unit capable of mating to said at least one removable module;

means for storing probe identifying information within said at least one removable module; and

means for communicating said probe identifying information between said means for storing and said temperature calculating unit.

22. (Amended) An electronic thermometer comprising:

a temperature calculating unit; and

a removable module including storage for a supply of clean probe covers and a probe assembly incorporated therewith, said probe assembly comprising a temperature probe, a cable having a first end connected to said temperature probe and a second end connected to a connector portion; wherein said connector portion includes fluid resistant mating terminals providing electrical connections to said probe and, a memory wherein said memory is incorporated within said probe assembly;

wherein said memory stores temperature probe identifying data and temperature probe calibration data, said temperature probe identifying data including a unique identification number associated with said temperature probe;

wherein said temperature probe includes at least one thermistor electrically connected with said mating terminals and wherein said temperature probe calibration information includes resistance values of each of said at least one thermistor, said resistance values corresponding to at least two different reference temperatures; and